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MONDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 1953

Doug Dillon is [redacted] to leave for New York today. He will have to be taken to the airport in an ambulance. Probably as a result of sacroiliac trouble, he has developed sciatica in a [redacted] painful degree and may have to undergo an operation at home.

André Bollack, who runs Agence Economique and L'Information through which he conducts bitter campaigns against EDC, came to see me this morning. He repeated all the stock arguments. I responded that the nature of my job was such that not only did I have no contact except socially with French political figures, but also had assiduously refrained from any discussion with French newspapermen or officials of these questions. He asked me for my private views as a friend of France and promised that nothing I said would be quoted or even indirectly ascribed to me. I replied I had only one observeration to make which was that, regardless of the merits or demerits of the EDC, I thought the French Government and Parliament owed its Allies an obligation to resolve this matter favorably or unfavorably without any but completely unavoidable delays. It seemed to me [redacted] much of the ill feeling in the United States regarding France of which Bollack had spoken was ascribable to the general impression of Americans that the French had long employed dilatory tactics to avoid final action on the issue, which must be squarely met. He agreed with this.

James Knott, Thomas Schreyer, Bob Thayer and Bill Tyler spent an hour with me talking about various French and foreign organizations interested in pushing, chiefly through propaganda, the theme of European integration.

Harold Callender called me with ~~an interesting packet of news about the~~ debate which starts tomorrow in the French Parliament on foreign affairs. He was moderately optimistic over Bidault obtaining ~~a general approval from the Assembly~~.

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Chip Bohlen called to see me. He had come down from Moscow last week to testify before the Randall Committee and is leaving tomorrow to shoot pheasants in Sweden before returning to his post. He said that at the recent dinner in the Kremlin given by Molotov which has been much publicized in our press the Soviet Foreign Minister invited about fifteen diplomats, regardless of precedence and rank, to sit at his table. In the course of the banquet a great many toasts were given. The rest of the Diplomatic Corps and literally hundreds of guests crowded around this table and watched the lucky ones feasting. Chip spoke of it as an example of the hard-boiled way in which Soviet affairs are conducted, for amongst those placed below the salt were many of the representatives of satellite countries. He feels the Russians have now definitely decided not to undertake any conversations to reduce tensions but to persevere in the maintenance of the status quo.

E. and I left by the night train for Bonn, having reversed my previous undertaking to go to Frankfurt, which I shall visit sometime tomorrow.

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